S. No.	Recommendation	Action taken
3	Retirement age of the seamen is to be reduced to 58 years from the present 60 years	Orders have been issued that the reduced retirement age would be applicable to seamen who are registered on or after 1-7-1982.
4	A scheme for financial assistance to the unemployed seamen be worked out and implemented.	This has been discussed in detail at various meetings of shipowners and seafarers but no acceptable scheme has yet been finalised. Ship-owners have expressed their inability to make funds available in the present state of recession.
5	Issue of Continuous Discharge Certificates to be confined to the Shipping Masters at Bombay and Calcutta only.	Orders have been issued restricting the issue of CDCs to Bombay and Calcutta.
6	Pre-entry medical standards for seamen to be reviewed.	After consultation with Ministry of Defence, it is felt that existing medical standards are adequate.
7	Pre-entry educational qualification to be raised to standard X (pass) from standard VIII (pass).	Since pre-sea training has been suspended now, the revised educational standards will be decided at the time of next advertisement for intake of trainees.

Second Hooghly Bridge

1725. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has so far been allocated by the Central Government for the second Hooghly Bridge and what amount has been paid to the State Government and in how many instalments; and

(b) what are the reasons for non payment of allocated money in lump sum to facilitate smooth planning and construction?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL (a) Second Hooghly Bridge being constructed at Calcutta, would fall on a State Highway and, therefore, the Government of West Bengal are primarily concerned with the Project, as constitutionally the roads declared as National Highways only are the responsibility of the Government of India. However, the Government of India have agreed to provide loan assistance of Rs. 150 crores to the West Bengal Government as a special case. Funds are released every year *on* the basis of the acrual requirements projected by the State Government from time to time An amount of Rs. 104.12 crores has, so far been released.

(b) Does not arise.

Transportation of betel-leaves

1726. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements Railways have made to facilitate speedy bookings for transportation of betel-leaves:

(b) which are the main Railway stations which handle loading and unloading of betel-leaves; and

(c) what is the amount the Railways earn on bookings and transportation of betel-leaves on an average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Betel-leaves as and when offered are accepted for booking and are despatched by brake vans of first available Mail/ Express or Sectional passenger trains. To further regulate the loading of this traffic, specific quotas have been earmarked for certain stations fox loading by certain trains.